

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION**

PIERRE WATSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

ZACHARY DRISKILL, et al.,

Defendants.

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No. 4:18-cv-00764-NAB

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

This matter comes before the Court on the motion of plaintiff Pierre Watson for appointment of counsel. (Docket No. 50). For the reasons discussed below, the motion will be denied.

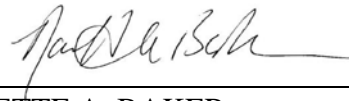
In civil cases, a pro se litigant does not have a constitutional or statutory right to appointed counsel. *Ward v. Smith*, 721 F.3d 940, 942 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013). *See also Stevens v. Redwing*, 146 F.3d 538, 546 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998) (stating that “[a] pro se litigant has no statutory or constitutional right to have counsel appointed in a civil case”). Rather, a district court may appoint counsel in a civil case if the court is “convinced that an indigent plaintiff has stated a non-frivolous claim...and where the nature of the litigation is such that plaintiff as well as the court will benefit from the assistance of counsel.” *Patterson v. Kelley*, 902 F.3d 845, 850 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2018). When determining whether to appoint counsel for an indigent litigant, a court considers relevant factors such as the complexity of the case, the ability of the pro se litigant to investigate the facts, the existence of conflicting testimony, and the ability of the pro se litigant to present his or her claim. *Phillips v. Jasper Cty. Jail*, 437 F.3d 791, 794 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006).

After reviewing these factors, the Court finds that the appointment of counsel is not warranted at this time. Plaintiff has demonstrated, at this point, that he can adequately present his

claims to the Court. Additionally, neither the factual nor the legal issues in this case appear to be complex. Finally, there is no indication that plaintiff will be unable to investigate the facts of this case. The Court will entertain future motions for appointment of counsel as the case progresses.

Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel (Docket No. 50) is **DENIED** at this time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Nannette A. Baker', written in black ink.

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NANNETTE A. BAKER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Dated this 5th day of March, 2020.